

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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ABIDJAN FOR MARY PETT, CAB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: GOI REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS

REF: A) ROME 15612; B) ROME 15263; C) STATE 228576;
D) ROME 14904

1. EMBASSY REQUESTED OBTAIN REVISED SEABOARD SCHEDULE
DESCRIBED IN REF A FROM LOCAL SEABOARD REP AND SUBMIT
TO CIVAIR AUTHORITIES WITH ACCOMPANYING EXPLANATION--
EITHER ORALLY OR VIA NOTE--THAT CHANGE IN SEABOARD WINTER
SCHEDULE IS DUE TO AIRLINE OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS AND
DOES NOT IMPLY ACCEPTANCE BY USG OR SEABOARD OF GOI
OBJECTIONS TO CHANGE OF GAUGE.

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2. DEPARTMENT ASSUMES REVISIONS TO PAN AM WINTER SCHEDULE DISCUSSED REFS C AND D HAVE BEEN FILED BY EMBASSY/PAN AM REP AND THAT ONLY REMAINING QUESTION IS TWA INCREASE IN MILAN.

3. IT IS DEPARTMENT'S IMPRESSION, WHICH WAS CONFIRMED IN CONVERSATION BETWEEN DEPTOFF AND SERAFINI OF ITALIAN EMBASSY (WHO HAD RECENTLY RETURNED FROM ROME), THAT GOI REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS ON WINTER CAPACITY WAS MADE

PRINCIPALLY TO FULFILL REQUIREMENTS OF 1970 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND PERMIT SUBSEQUENT APPLICATION OF PARA 5(F), RATHER THAN IN EXPECTATION THAT CONSULTATIONS WOULD RESULT IN AGREEMENT. U.S. CIVAIR NEGOTIATORS ARE VIRTUALLY FULLY COMMITTED THROUGH END OF OCTOBER AND COULD NOT TRAVEL TO ROME. IT SEEMS TO US UNNECESSARY FOR A DELEGATION TO TRAVEL (WHETHER TO ROME OR TO WASHINGTON) SIMPLY FOR SAKE OF MEETING WHEN THE CONCLUSION (AGREEMENT TO DISAGREE) IS PREORDAINED. THEREFORE, DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS FOLLOWING APPROACH BE MADE TO ITALIAN AUTHORITIES EITHER BY NOTE OR ORALLY:

A. USG ASSUMES THAT, IN VIEW LATEST FILINGS MADE FOR SEABOARD AND PAN AM, GOI HAS NO DIFFICULTY WITH ALL-CARGO SCHEDULES OF THESE AIRLINES FOR UPCOMING WINTER SEASON.

B. ONLY REMAINING QUESTION APPEARS BE LEVEL OF CAPACITY FOR COMBINATION SERVICES. OVERALL INCREASE FOR PAN AM AND TWA IS MODEST (1.6 PERCENT) AND ONLY INCREASE ON ANY SPECIFIC ROUTE IS TWA'S ADDITION OF TWICE WEEKLY NEW YORK-GENEVA-MILAN SERVICE. USG BELIEVES THIS SPECIFIC INCREASE IS WARRANTED BY THE HIGH LOAD FACTORS EXPERIENCED BY TWA AT MILAN LAST WINTER (OVER 65 PERCENT) AND BY EXPECTED TRAFFIC GROWTH THIS WINTER.

C. WHILE USG DOES NOT WISH FORECLOSE FURTHER DISCUSSION, THERE IS NO BASIS FOR ASSUMING THAT SUCH FURTHER DISCUSSION WILL CHANGE USG VIEW THAT THE SCHEDULES FILED FOR U.S. AIRLINES ARE REASONABLE AND JUSTIFIED UNDER THE TERMS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS. CONSIDERING THE BUSY SCHEDULES OF U.S., AND NO DOUBT ITALIAN, NEGOTIATORS, USG SUGGESTS IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO HOLD FORMAL CONSULTATIONS SIMPLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF LITERAL ADHERENCE TO THE 1970 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

D. ACCORDINGLY, SHOULD GOI CONFIRM THAT IT CONSIDERS THE INCREASE OF TWA IN THE MILAN MARKET TO BE UNJUSTI-

FIED, THE USG IS PREPARED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE PROVISIONS OF PARA 5(B) OF THE MEMORANDUM HAVE BEEN FULFILLED THROUGH FILING OF ITALIAN NOTE CONTAINED IN REF B, WITHOUT THE NEED FOR FORMAL CONSULTATION, AND THAT THEREFORE PARA 5(F) MAY BE INVOLVED BY TE GOI SUBSEQUENTLY SHOULD IT SO DESIRE.

E. IF THE GOI NEVERTHELESS DESIRES FURTHER DISCUSSIONS, U.S. AUTHORITIES WOULD BE PLEASED TO MEET WITH AN ITALIAN DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON FOR A DAY OR SO SOMETIME IN OCTOBER. ALTERNATIVELY, THE EMBASSY WILL SEEK NECESSARY INSTRUCTIONS SO THAT IT MAY CONDUCT CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES IN ROME.

4. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES THAT SOME ELEMENTS OF GOI (E.G. CIVILAVIA) MAY CHOOSE TO ALLEGE THAT FOREGOING APPROACH IS A CAVALIER U.S. TACTIC WHICH DEMONSTRATES U.S. UNWILLINGNESS CONSIDER SERIOUSLY ITALIAN DEMANDS FOR RENEGOTIATION OF ROUTES AND CAPACITY PROVISIONS. WE TRUST EMBASSY CAN PURSUADE ITALIANS THAT OUR PROPOSAL HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH BROADER ISSUE AND IS SIMPLY A PRACTICAL ACCOMMODATION TO AVOID DELEGATION TRAVEL WHICH CAN ONLY HAVE PREDICTABLE RESULTS. KISSINGER

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